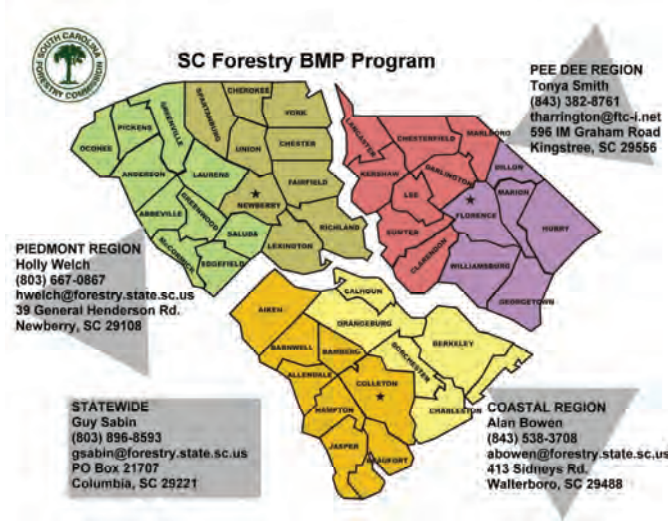


What You Can Do

1. Require BMP compliance in your written contract.
2. Contact your local BMP Forester. They can provide free services to identify potential environmental impacts before a forestry operation begins. They will visit your site and provide written recommendations for the upcoming harvest. Once harvesting begins, the BMP forester will make periodic site visits to ensure applicable BMPs are being followed.
3. Choose a logger or contractor who has completed the Timber Operations Professional (TOP) Program and is fully trained in the proper application of BMPs.
4. Inform your neighbors and fellow forest landowners about the importance of forestry BMPs.



Contact Your Local BMP Forester



Piedmont – Holly Welch
(803) 667-0867
hwelch@forestry.state.sc.us

Pee Dee – Tonya Harrington
(843) 382-8761
tharrington@ftc-i.net

Coastal – Alan Bowen
(843) 538-3708
abowen@forestry.state.sc.us

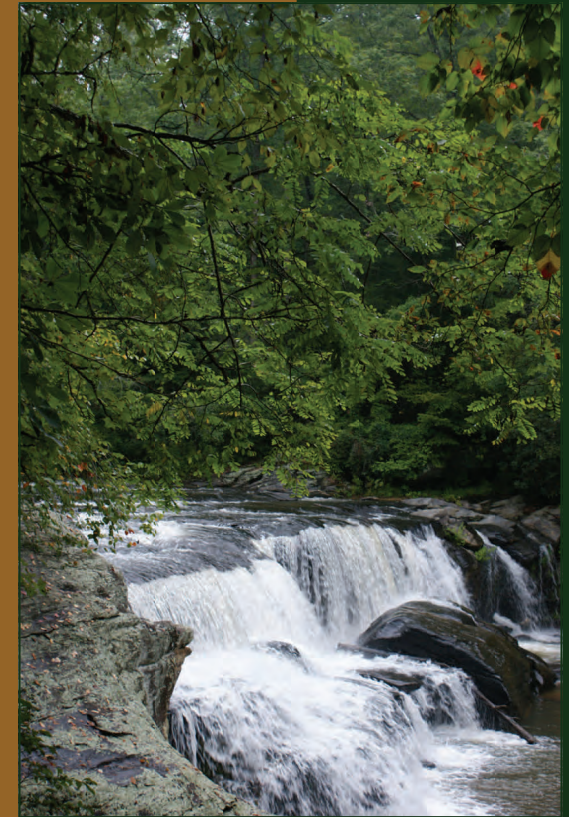
Statewide – Guy Sabin
(803) 896-8593
gsabin@forestry.state.sc.us



South Carolina Forestry Commission

5500 Broad River Road
Columbia, SC 29212
(803) 896-8800
scfc@forestry.state.sc.us

South Carolina Forestry Commission



A Landowners Guide to Best Management Practices for Forestry



Introduction

In South Carolina we are fortunate to have healthy and productive forests. They provide jobs, clean water, recreation, wood products, and wildlife habitat.

In order to manage these forests sustainably, we must follow sound forest management practices. By implementing Best Management Practices (BMPs) during all forestry operations, we can realize the economic value of our forests while successfully protecting site productivity and water quality.

The following information will help you understand what BMPs are and why it is important to implement them on your property.



What are BMPs?

BMPs are scientifically based guidelines established to minimize the potential negative impacts of forestry operations. Although non-regulatory, they can help prevent violations of the Clean Water Act, SC Pollution Control Act, and other laws and regulations.

They are a common sense, economical and effective way to ensure that water quality and site productivity are protected when your trees are harvested.



Why Should I Follow BMPs?

Following BMPs will help keep our water clean, maintain forest productivity, improve public confidence in our loggers, and maintain public support for forest management and timber harvesting.

If BMPs are not followed there is the potential for erosion, especially at skid trail and forest road stream crossings. Eroded soil entering a stream or lake can damage fish spawning areas, aquatic habitat, and overall water quality. Failure to use BMPs may result in violations of water quality laws leading to severe penalties, along with negative public opinion towards forestry. Also, your property must be in compliance with BMPs to be eligible for state and federal cost-share programs (i.e., FRP, SPB, EQIP, etc.)

Implementing BMPs is the best way to protect our natural resources and ensure your forest remains healthy and productive.

BMP Implementation

At a minimum, the following general BMPs should be implemented:

- Maintain a forested 40-foot Streamside Management Zone (SMZ) on both sides of perennial streams, lakes and some ponds. Larger SMZs are recommended on trout waters and on steep slopes.
- Never block the flow of a stream. Use appropriately sized culverts or temporary bridges to allow water flow. Remove and stabilize temporary crossings when the operation is complete.
- Minimize the number of road and skid trail stream crossings. If a crossing is necessary, cross the stream at a right angle. All crossings should be stabilized to prevent erosion.
- Minimize soil disturbance especially on steep slopes. Areas with high erosion potential should be stabilized with water bars, vegetation, logging slash or by other methods.

Your local BMP Forester can provide you with a complete BMP manual, or an electronic version can be viewed at www.trees.sc.gov/refbmp.htm.

